



King County

Ron Sims

King County Executive

Office of the King County Executive

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 400
Seattle, WA 98104-3271

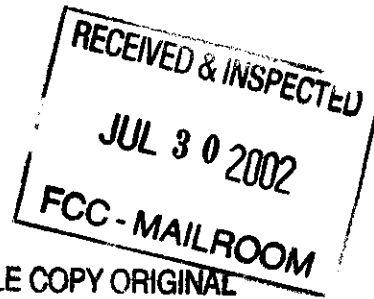
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July 17, 2002

Confirmed

AUG 06 2002

Distribution Center

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 -- 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

RE: Qwest application to provide long-distance service in Washington State

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing to encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve Qwest Communications' application to provide long-distance service in Washington State.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) has completed a lengthy and exhaustive process to determine if Qwest has fulfilled its statutory and regulatory requirements to open their local networks to competition prior to receiving FCC approval to re-enter the long-distance market. It is our understanding that the WUTC has concluded that all requirements of the "14-point checklist" have been successfully met, and that the WUTC is recommending to the FCC that Qwest's application for Washington State be approved. I commend the WUTC for the thorough and rigorous process they undertook with all of the affected parties to reach this conclusion, and I support their recommendation.

My interest in this process is economic development. Some have labeled me a technology evangelist. As King County Executive I will continue to seek opportunities to enhance economic growth. I believe access to advanced telecommunications services and technology is a critical component to our community's success. Businesses looking to locate or expand in Metropolitan King County expect excellent access to advanced telecom services. Existing businesses must continually feel assured that King County is right up there when it comes to being "wired". Our citizens, who work for hi-tech companies such as Microsoft, Amazon.com, and Real Networks, whose headquarters are in King County, expect to be at the front of the pack when it comes to the latest in communications devices and technology.



Marlene H. Dortch

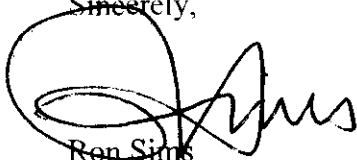
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I request that you give Washington State a needed tool to help achieve our goal to grow our economy, provide new jobs, and sustain our state's rural and urban quality of life. Allowing Qwest to re-enter the long-distance market in Washington State will stimulate more competition, resulting in more choices, better service and lower prices.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to expeditiously approve Qwest's application to offer long-distance service in Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "R" and a trailing flourish.

Ron Sims

King County Executive